

facilities, equipment, method of operation, and raw material being received are in accordance with the provisions of this part. The survey shall be used to determine suitability of the plant for USDA inspection or grading service.

(p) *Plant status*. The extent to which a plant complies with this subpart shall be determined under procedures as set forth by the Administrator.

(q) *Producer*. The person or persons who exercise control over the production of the milk delivered to a processing plant or receiving station and who receive payment for this product.

(r) *Quality control*. The inspection of the quality of the raw material and the conditions relative to the preparation of the product from its raw state through each step in the entire process. It includes the inspection of conditions under which the product is prepared, processed, manufactured, packed and stored. In addition, assistance and guidance is offered to improve the raw milk quality, processing methods, quality, stability, and packaging and handling of the finished product.

(s) *Regulations*. The term “regulations” means the provisions contained in this part.

(t) *Shall*. Expresses a provision that is mandatory.

(u) *Should*. Expresses recommended nonmandatory provisions which when followed would significantly aid in a quality improvement program.

(v) *Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products*. “Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products,” a publication of the American Public Health Association, 1015 Fifteenth Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20005.

(w) *3-A Sanitary Standards and Accepted Practice*. The latest standards for dairy equipment and accepted practices formulated by the 3-A Sanitary Standards Committees representing the International Association for Food Protection, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Dairy Industry Committee. Published by the International Association for Food Protection, 6200 Aurora Avenue, Suite 200 W, Des Moines, Iowa 50322-2863.

(x) *USDA or Department*. Means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(y) *Receiving Station*. Any place, premise, or establishment where milk or dairy products are received, collected or handled for transfer to a processing or manufacturing plant.

(z) *Transfer station*. Any place, premise, or establishment where milk or dairy products are transferred directly from one transport tank to another.

(aa) *Corrosion-resistant*. Those materials that maintain their original surface characteristics under prolonged influence of the product to be contacted, cleaning compounds and sanitizing solutions, and other conditions of the environment in which used.

[40 FR 47911, Oct. 10, 1975. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 50 FR 34672, Aug. 27, 1985; 58 FR 42413, Aug. 9, 1993; 59 FR 24321, May 10, 1994; 59 FR 50121, Sep. 30, 1994; 67 FR 48974, July 29, 2002]

PURPOSE

§ 58.122 Approved plants under USDA inspection and grading service.

(a) Adoption of certain sound practices at dairy plants will significantly aid the operators to manufacture more consistently, uniform high-quality stable dairy products. Only dairy products manufactured, processed and packaged in an approved plant may be graded or inspected and identified with official identification. The specifications established herein provide the basis for a quality maintenance program which may be effectively carried forward through official inspection, grading, and quality control service.

(b) USDA inspection and grading service is provided to dairy product manufacturing plants on a voluntary basis. The operator of any dairy plant desiring to have such a plant qualified as an approved plant under USDA inspection and grading service may request surveys of such plant, premises, equipment, facilities, methods of operation, and raw material to determine whether they are adequate to permit inspection and grading service. The cost of this survey shall be borne by the applicant.

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 58.126

APPROVED PLANTS

§ 58.123 Survey and approval.

Prior to the approval of a plant, a designated representative of the Administrator shall make a survey of the plant, premises, storage facilities, equipment and raw material, volume of raw material processed daily, and facilities for handling the products at the plant. The survey shall be made at least twice a year to determine whether the facilities, equipment, method of operation, and raw material being received are adequate and suitable for USDA inspection and grading service in accordance with the provisions of this part. To be eligible for approval a plant shall satisfactorily meet the specifications of this subpart as determined by the Administrator.

§ 58.124 Denial or suspension of plant approval.

Plant approval may be denied or suspended if a determination is made by a designated representative of the Administrator that the plant is not performing satisfactorily in regard to;

- (a) The classification of milk,
- (b) Proper segregation and disposal of unwholesome raw materials or finished product,
- (c) Adequate facilities and condition of processing equipment,
- (d) Sanitary conditions of plant and equipment,
- (e) Control of insects, rodents and other vermin,
- (f) Use of non-toxic product contact surfaces and prevention of adulteration of raw materials and products with chemicals or other foreign material,
- (g) Proper operating procedures,
- (h) The maintenance of legal composition of finished products,
- (i) The manufacture of stable dairy products, of desirable keeping quality characteristics,
- (j) Proper storage conditions for ingredients and dairy products, or
- (k) Suitable and effective packaging methods and material.

[40 FR 47911, Oct. 10, 1975. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 67 FR 48974, July 29, 2002]

PREMISES, BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND UTENSILS

§ 58.125 Premises.

(a) The premises shall be kept in a clean and orderly condition, and shall be free from strong or foul odors, smoke, or excessive air pollution. Construction and maintenance of driveways and adjacent plant traffic areas should be of cement, asphalt, or similar material to keep dust and mud to a minimum.

(b) *Surroundings.* The immediate surroundings shall be free from refuse, rubbish, overgrown vegetation, and waste materials to prevent harborage of rodents, insects and other vermin.

(c) *Drainage.* A suitable drainage system shall be provided which will allow rapid drainage of all water from plant buildings and driveways, including surface water around the plant and on the premises, and all such water shall be disposed of in such a manner as to prevent an environmental or health hazard.

§ 58.126 Buildings.

The building or buildings shall be of sound construction and shall be kept in good repair to prevent the entrance or harboring of rodents, birds, insects, vermin, dogs, and cats. All service pipe openings through outside walls shall be effectively sealed around the opening or provided with tight metal collars.

(a) *Outside doors, windows, openings, etc.* All openings to the outer air including doors, windows, skylights and transoms shall be effectively protected or screened against the entrance of flies and other insects, rodents, birds, dust and dirt. All outside doors opening into processing rooms shall be in good condition and fit properly. All hinged, outside screen doors shall open outward. All doors and windows should be kept clean and in good repair. Outside conveyor openings and other special-type outside openings shall be effectively protected to prevent the entrance of flies and rodents, by the use of doors, screens, flaps, fans or tunnels. Outside openings for sanitary pipelines shall be covered when not in use. On new construction window sills should be slanted downward at approximately a 45° angle.